



## The responsibility of states to protect democratic processes from online Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI)

 **Date & Time: Tuesday, 18 March 2025 | 15:00-17:00 CET**

 **Location: Hybrid** – Online & On-site at VUB Campus  
(Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels | Room C4.09)

 **Free Participation – Registration Required**

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Recent years have shown that campaigns of online manipulation and interference, originating at the behest of domestic or foreign agents, be they state and non-state actors, can threaten the fabric of democratic processes. FIMI begs the unsettled problem of distinctions such as between legitimate political debate and illegal manipulation or interference. Distinctively, the qualification of “foreign” calls to the fore the rules and principles governing the relations and conduct of sovereign states, individuals, and multinational corporations, such as online platforms. The Focus Group explores which international human rights law references could and should be mobilised to frame the challenges and responses to online FIMI operations.

### **Discussion Points:**

#### **State Responsibility Under IHRL**

When does state-sponsored information manipulation cross legal thresholds?- Extraterritorial surveillance and human rights: where does responsibility begin?- Can the right to self-determination be a legal tool against FIMI?

#### **Domestic regulation and accountability**

State duties in combating information manipulation domestically.- Jurisdiction problems & accountability of online platforms.- Platform Corporate responsibility under IHRL.